

### CLAIMS

1. The use of sodium chloride formulated such that it cannot cross epithelial barriers in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of medical conditions at least  
5 partially characterised by blockage or other malfunction of exocrine glands.
2. The use according to claim 1 wherein the sodium chloride is in crystal form.
3. The use according to claims 1 or 2 wherein the sodium chloride is coated with an  
10 agent that forms a liquid impermeable but gas permeable layer.
4. The use according to claim 3 wherein the agent is a ceramic, a polymer or a natural wax.
- 15 5. The use according to claim 3 wherein the agent encapsulates sodium chloride to form a sphere.
6. The use according to claim 5 wherein the sphere is of a diameter between 1 mm and  
10 mm.
- 20 7. The use according to claims 5 or 6 wherein the sphere comprises sodium chloride crystals coated with beeswax hardened with cornstarch and talc.
8. Sodium chloride coated with an agent that forms a liquid impermeable but gas  
25 permeable layer.
9. The use according to claim 8 wherein the agent is a ceramic, a polymer or a natural wax.

10. The use according to claim 8 wherein the agent encapsulates sodium chloride to form a sphere.
11. The use according to claim 10 wherein the sphere is of a diameter between 1 mm  
5 and 10 mm.
12. The use according to either of claims 10 or 11 wherein the sphere comprises sodium chloride crystals coated with beeswax hardened with cornstarch and talc.
- 10 13. A patch suitable for adherence to skin containing sodium chloride adapted for use in the treatment of medical conditions at least partially characterised by the blockage or other malfunction of exocrine glands.
14. The patch according to claim 13 comprising a sticking plaster suitable for adherence  
15 to skin.
15. The patch according to claim 14 comprising a hypoallergenic water resistant plaster.
16. The patch according to either of claims 14 or 15 in the form of a figure eight.  
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17. The patch according to claim 16 further comprising two spherical granules of sodium chloride.
18. A patch according to any of claims 13 to 17 further comprising coated sodium  
25 chloride according to any of claims 8-12.

19. A device consisting of a holder adapted for holding a medically efficacious compound, an energy source and an actuator driven by the energy source for temporarily and at intervals placing the compound against the skin of a subject.

5 20. The device according to claim 19 adapted to be worn around the abdomen or thorax of a subject.

21. The device according to either of claims 19 or 20 wherein the energy source is a low voltage battery.

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22. The device according to any of claims 19-21 further comprises an electronic timer.

23. The device according to any of claims 19-22 wherein the actuator is a spring return push-rod solenoid.

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24. A device according to any of claims 19-23 adapted to hold sodium chloride.

25. A device according to any of claims 19 to 23 adapted to hold sodium chloride coated according to any of claims 8-12.

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26. A preparation comprising a medically efficacious substance coated or otherwise enclosed by an agent that forms a liquid impermeable but gas permeable layer for use as a medicament.

25 27. A preparation according to claim 26, said agent formulated such that said substance cannot cross epithelial barriers in mammals.

28. A preparation according to claim 26, said agent formulated such that said substance cannot cross membrane barriers in mammals.

29. A preparation according to claim 26, said agent formulated such that said substance cannot cross into cells of mammals.

30. A preparation according to any of claims 26-29, in a form selected from the group consisting of: a pill, a tablet, a lozenge, a bolus, a capsule, a caplet, a granule, a nanoparticle, and a microparticle.

31. A preparation according to claim 30, being in granular, nanoparticle or microparticle form selected from the group consisting of: a suspension, a cream, and a paste.

32. A preparation according to any of claims 26-29, prepared for use with a patch for holding said preparation near to or against the skin of a patient.

33. A preparation according to any of claims 26-29, prepared for implantation into the body of a patient.

34. A preparation according to any of claims 26-33, wherein said agent is selected from the group consisting of: a ceramic, a polymer, a natural wax, and beeswax hardened with cornstarch and talc.

35. A preparation according to any of claims 26-34, wherein said substance is selected from the group consisting of: sodium chloride, capsaicin, metformin, salicylic acid, and a derivative of salicylic acid.

36. A preparation according to any of claims 26-34, wherein said substance is selected from the group consisting of: a substance endogenous to the body, a food substance, a plant material, and a drug.

5 37. A preparation according to any of claims 26-36, combined with a preparation of at least one ingredient designed for delivery into solution.

38. A preparation according to any of claims 26-36 combined with a preparation of at least one ingredient designed for delivery into solution for a therapeutic purpose.

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39. A method of manufacture of a medicament comprising coating or otherwise enclosing a medically efficacious substance in an agent that forms a liquid impermeable but gas permeable layer.